

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A patient support comprising,
a frame;
a siderail supported by the frame, the siderail including a rail member, a linkage configured to permit vertical movement of the rail member between a raised position and a lowered position, and a latching mechanism configured to retain the rail member in at least one of the raised position and the lowered position; and
the latching mechanism including a rocker arm having first and second ends movable about a pivot axis, a handle member coupled proximate the first end of the rocker arm, a latch member coupled proximate the second end of the rocker arm, the handle member being configured to pivot the rocker arm about the pivot axis such that the rocker arm moves the latch member between a latched position which prevents vertical movement of the rail member and an unlatched position which permits vertical movement of the rail member, wherein the handle member is configured to slide along a linear path to provide pivoting movement of the rocker arm.
- 2-3. (Canceled)
4. (Currently Amended) The patient support of ~~claim 3~~ claim 1, wherein linear movement of the handle member in a first direction causes linear movement of the latch member in a second direction not parallel to the first direction.
5. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ patient support ~~of claim 1~~ comprising,
a siderail supported by the frame, the siderail including a rail member, a linkage configured to permit vertical movement of the rail member between a raised position and a lowered position, and a latching mechanism configured to retain the rail member in at least one of the raised position and the lowered position; and
the latching mechanism including a rocker arm having first and second ends movable about a pivot axis, a handle member coupled proximate the first end of the rocker arm, a latch member coupled proximate the second end of the rocker arm, the handle member being configured to pivot the rocker arm about the pivot axis such that the rocker arm moves the latch member between a latched position which prevents vertical movement of the rail member and an unlatched position which permits vertical movement of the rail member
wherein the linkage includes a link having a base configured to support the latching mechanism and defining a handle opening, and the handle member includes a first end

pivotably coupled to the rocker arm and a second end accessible from the handle opening.

6. (Original) The patient support of claim 5, further comprising a spring positioned intermediate the first end of the handle member and the base of the link, the spring being configured to bias the handle member such that the latch member is in the latched position.

7. (Currently Amended) A The patient support comprising of claim 1,
a siderail supported by the frame, the siderail including a rail member, a
linkage configured to permit vertical movement of the rail member between a raised position
and a lowered position, and a latching mechanism configured to retain the rail member in at
least one of the raised position and the lowered position; and
the latching mechanism including a rocker arm having first and second ends
movable about a pivot axis, a handle member coupled proximate the first end of the rocker
arm, a latch member coupled proximate the second end of the rocker arm, the handle member
being configured to pivot the rocker arm about the pivot axis such that the rocker arm moves
the latch member between a latched position which prevents vertical movement of the rail
member and an unlatched position which permits vertical movement of the rail member
wherein the linkage includes a first link coupled to the frame, a second link pivotably coupled to the first link, a third link pivotably coupled to the second link, and a fourth link pivotably coupled to the third link and the first link, the latch member in the latched position being configured to bind the fourth link and the first link to prevent pivoting movement therebetween.

8. (Currently Amended) A The patient support comprising of claim 1,
a siderail supported by the frame, the siderail including a rail member, a
linkage configured to permit vertical movement of the rail member between a raised position
and a lowered position, and a latching mechanism configured to retain the rail member in at
least one of the raised position and the lowered position; and
the latching mechanism including a rocker arm having first and second ends
movable about a pivot axis, a handle member coupled proximate the first end of the rocker
arm, a latch member coupled proximate the second end of the rocker arm, the handle member
being configured to pivot the rocker arm about the pivot axis such that the rocker arm moves
the latch member between a latched position which prevents vertical movement of the rail
member and an unlatched position which permits vertical movement of the rail member
wherein the linkage includes a flange coupled to the frame and including a latch aperture, a

link pivotably supported by the flange and coupled to the latch member, the latch member being received within the latch aperture when in the latched position to prevent pivoting movement of the link.

9-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) ~~A The patient support comprising of claim 11, wherein:~~
a siderail supported by the frame, the siderail including a rail member, a linkage configured to permit vertical movement of the rail member between a raised position and a lowered position, and a latching mechanism configured to retain the rail member in at least one of the raised position and the lowered position;

the latching mechanism including a rocker arm having first and second ends movable about a pivot axis, a handle member coupled proximate the first end of the rocker arm, a latch member coupled proximate the second end of the rocker arm, the handle member being configured to pivot the rocker arm about the pivot axis such that the rocker arm moves the latch member between a latched position which prevents vertical movement of the rail member and an unlatched position which permits vertical movement of the rail member;

an indicator operably coupled to the latch member and configured to provide a visual indication of the unlatched position wherein the indicator includes an indicating surface configured to move in response to movement of the latch member wherein the linkage includes a link having a base configured to receive the latching mechanism and defining an indicator opening; and

the indicator is fixed to the handle member and is configured to move relative to the indicator opening such that the indicating surface is visible when the latch member is in the unlatched position and is substantially hidden by the base when the latch member is in the latched position.

13. (Currently Amended) A patient support comprising:

a frame;

a siderail supported by the frame, the siderail including a rail member, a linkage configured to permit vertical movement of the rail member between a raised position and a lowered position, and a latching mechanism configured to retain the rail member in at least one of the raised position and the lowered position; and

the latching mechanism including a latch member configured to move between a latched position which prevents vertical movement of the rail member and an unlatched position which permits vertical movement of the rail member, and a handle

member operably coupled to the latch member and configured to provide movement of the latch member between the latched position and the unlatched position, wherein movement of the handle member in a first plane causes movement of the latch member in a second plane not parallel to the first plane wherein the latching mechanism includes a pair of latch members configured to move toward each other during movement from the latched position to the unlatched position, and configured to move away from each other during movement from the unlatched position to the latched position.

14-18 (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A The patient support of claim 13, comprising:
a frame;

a siderail supported by the frame, the siderail including a rail member, a linkage configured to permit vertical movement of the rail member between a raised position and a lowered position, and a latching mechanism configured to retain the rail member in at least one of the raised position and the lowered position; and

the latching mechanism including a latch member configured to move between a latched position which prevents vertical movement of the rail member and an unlatched position which permits vertical movement of the rail member, and a handle member operably coupled to the latch member and configured to provide movement of the latch member between the latched position and the unlatched position, wherein movement of the handle member in a first plane causes movement of the latch member in a second plane not parallel to the first plane wherein the latching mechanism includes a rocker arm having first and second ends movable about a pivot axis, the handle member being coupled to the first end of the rocker arm, the latch member being coupled to the second end of the rocker arm, and the handle member being configured to pivot the rocker arm about the pivot axis such that the rocker arm moves the latch member between the latched position and the unlatched position.

20. (Original) The patient support of claim 19, wherein the rocker arm is substantially L-shaped.

21. (Currently Amended) A The patient support of claim 13, comprising:
a frame;

a siderail supported by the frame, the siderail including a rail member, a linkage configured to permit vertical movement of the rail member between a raised position and a lowered position, and a latching mechanism configured to retain the rail member in at

least one of the raised position and the lowered position; and

the latching mechanism including a latch member configured to move between a latched position which prevents vertical movement of the rail member and an unlatched position which permits vertical movement of the rail member, and a handle member operably coupled to the latch member and configured to provide movement of the latch member between the latched position and the unlatched position, wherein movement of the handle member in a first plane causes movement of the latch member in a second plane not parallel to the first plane wherein the handle member is configured to slide along a linear path to provide linear movement of the latch member.

22-24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) A The patient support of claim 13, comprising:
a frame;

a siderail supported by the frame, the siderail including a rail member, a linkage configured to permit vertical movement of the rail member between a raised position and a lowered position, and a latching mechanism configured to retain the rail member in at least one of the raised position and the lowered position; and

the latching mechanism including a latch member configured to move between a latched position which prevents vertical movement of the rail member and an unlatched position which permits vertical movement of the rail member, and a handle member operably coupled to the latch member and configured to provide movement of the latch member between the latched position and the unlatched position, wherein movement of the handle member in a first plane causes movement of the latch member in a second plane not parallel to the first plane wherein the linkage includes a flange coupled to the frame and including a latch aperture, a link pivotably supported by the flange and coupled to the latch member, the latch member being received within the latch aperture when in the latched position to prevent pivoting movement of the link.

26-29. (Canceled)

30. (Currently Amended) A The patient support comprising of claim 26,
a frame;

a siderail supported by the frame, the siderail including a rail member, a linkage configured to permit raising and lowering of the rail member, and a retaining member configured to retain the rail member in the at least one of the raised position and the lowered position; and

means for moving the retaining member between a first position which prevents raising and lowering of the rail member and a second position which permits raising and lowering of the rail member. wherein movement of the means for moving in a first direction causes linear movement of the retaining member in a second direction not parallel to the first direction wherein the means for moving includes a rocker arm having first and second ends movable about a pivot axis, a handle member coupled to the first end of the rocker arm, and the retaining member being coupled to the second end of the rocker arm, wherein the means for moving ~~handle member~~ is configured to rotate the rocker arm about the pivot axis such that the rocker arm moves the retaining member between the first position and the second position.

31. (Original) The patient support of claim 30, wherein the handle member is configured to slide along a linear path to provide linear movement of the retaining member.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ patient support comprising of claim 26,
a frame;

a siderail supported by the frame, the siderail including a rail member, a linkage configured to permit raising and lowering of the rail member, and a retaining member configured to retain the rail member in the at least one of the raised position and the lowered position; and

means for moving the retaining member between a first position which prevents raising and lowering of the rail member and a second position which permits raising and lowering of the rail member, wherein movement of the means for moving in a first direction causes linear movement of the retaining member in a second direction not parallel to the first direction wherein the linkage comprises a flange coupled to the frame and including an aperture, a link pivotably supported by the flange and coupled to the retaining member, the retaining member being received within the aperture when in the first position to prevent pivoting movement of the link.

34-61. (Canceled)